BERNAL JOURNAL

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING BERNAL HEIGHTS AND SAN FRANCISCO

November 1982

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The Town We Live In

Third Annual Bernal Folks' Festival

By David Butterfield

Depending on who you talked to, it was a big crowd or, it wasn't as big as last year. The bands were great...the bands were too loud. The weather was lousy...the weather was great. It was good to hear what was going on...there were too many speakers. But the main thing people were saying was, the Third Annual Bernal Folks Festival was a success.

This year's festival, which took place on Cortland Avenue, Saturday, October 16, was successful not so much because of the crowd size—smaller than last year—or the number of musical groups, but because it was truly a neighborhood event. Unlike some of the more commercially oriented fairs in Noe Valley, Polk Street and other "in spots," the Bernal Folks Festival was true to its name. Virtually every booth was operated by a Bernal Heights business or community organization and the crowd was made up of neighborhood people. And that is what the festival is all about.

The relaxed atmosphere was spiked with the smell of flautas, piroshki, popcorn and cotton candy whipped around by a fairly stiff breeze. Kids made the best use of their allowances visiting the cookie counter or having a slice of the Deli Pub's five-foot-long sandwich. A large part of the young crowd spent the day near the stage listening to a diverse group of bands including Formula Fed, The Brass Knights of Bernal Heights, Hades, Harvey, and Papo. The library, stage right, was the center of attention during dedication ceremonies for the soon-to-be-completed mural there. But the main activity of the day was friends greeting friends or making new ones.

The festival was a good opportunity for Bernal businesses to make new friends, too. Jill Solar-Young, owner of *cortland's own...* flower and gift shop remarked, "It's great that people can see what kinds of businesses there are on Cortland Street. Maybe they'll shop here more often. This street really has potential."

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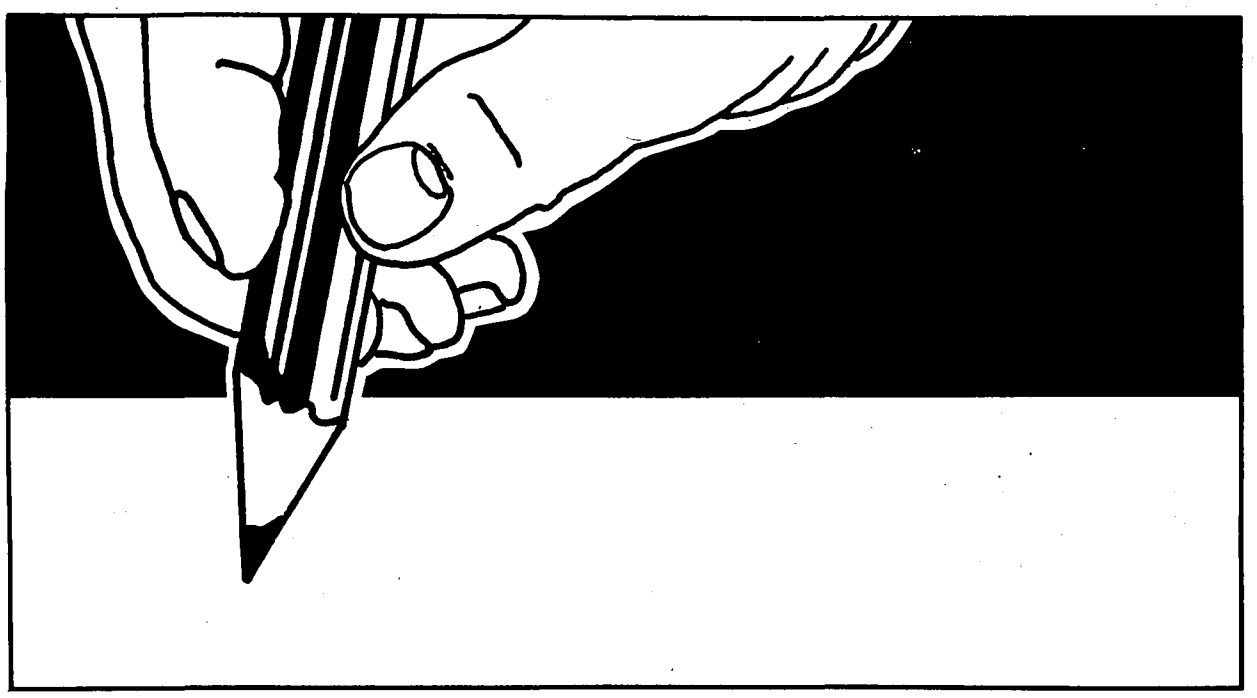
From the Editors:



HELP!

We hope that the appearance of the second Bernal Journal in as many months comes as pleasant news to our neighbors, readers and advertisers who have seen only a few issues in the previous two years.

We hope, as well, that this represents the rebirth of the BJ, that we can continue to produce issues on a regular basis.

In order to do so, we are expecting to put in a lot of work in coming months. In addition to the regular work of putting out the paper, we expect to spend time and energy finding other people who would like to make the BJ an ongoing neighborhood project.

We need people who have or would like to develop skills in writing, designing, art, editing, paste-up, ad sales, circulation and more.

In addition to workers, we are seeking ideas and opinions about Bernal Journal's style and content. Do you have any ideas for regular or one-time features? What do you think is of interest to the people of Bernal Heights? What do you think that people should know about?

We have a few ideas and would like to know what you think about them:

Redesigning the banner. (This is partly out of necessity.)

Including original artwork to complement written material and to give local artists more exposure.

Using bigger photos to improve the paper's visual impact.

Including updates on neighborhood groups in each issue.

A regular feature on people in Bernal from other countries.

Getting the Journal to come out more frequently. This would allow us to be more newsy, but would require a regular group of workers.

Bigger issues. This requires regular advertisers as well as regular workers.

Articles in Spanish, perhaps other languages, to reach more people in Bernal.

A regular column by the neighborhood youth.

Articles featuring merchants and services available on Cortland and in Bernal.

Columns with legal information.

We are sure that there are many other possibilities for material for the Journal and we look forward to including as many as possible in future issues.

However, the existence of future issues depends on support from the community. For this issue, two people did most of the work. We sold the ads, wrote articles, took photos, did illustrations, layout and more. This is, of course, more work than two people can do for every issue.

If we can get people to take charge of different aspects of the paper, then the paper will thrive. We will be happy to teach people what we know so that the paper will not be dependent on the amount of time that two people have.

In a word, HELP. The paper needs you. We are not asking for money (unless you are an adverstiser,) we are just asking for a little time each month to keep the Journal alive and kicking.

If you are interested in helping, give us a call or drop a note at the Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland. Let us know what you'd like to do, learn or see in the BJ. We look forward to hearing from you.

Carlos Alcala
285-1084

David Butterfield
285-7875

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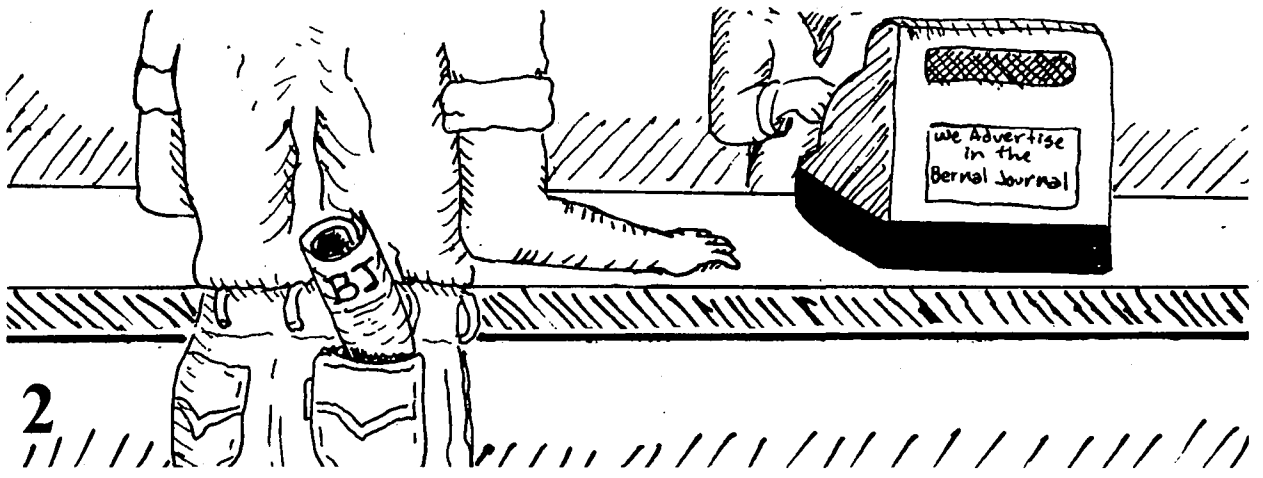

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Folks' Festival

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The potential was evident everywhere. From the Youth Council volunteers, to Community Boards providing neighborhood dispute resolution, to the Recycling Center, to the Neighborhood Center providing services to seniors, youth and the rest of the community, to all the other groups and individuals who make Bernal Heights the most evolved and involved neighborhood in San Francisco.

Among the many interesting groups displaying their wares at the festival was the Center for the Urban Environment, a new organization put together by Jon Katz and Liz Walker. CURE's goal is to buy and renovate the burned out church at 908 Cortland, near Gates St., and use it as a working model of alternative technology. This would include solar and wind power, food production and waste disposal among other things. The Center would be, for the most part, a volunteer based operation teaching neighborhood people how to be more self-sufficient by growing their own food and learning about energy saving technology in order to cut their losses to PG&E.

CURE is now in the research and development/ fundraising stage, needing over $100,000 to get started before developers turn the site into another expensive multi-unit condominium. For more information about CURE, call Jon Katz or Liz Walker at 285-2433 or 285-9685. We wish them success and look forward to future developments.

A lot of information was circulating at the festival, and just about every community group was represented. See our section on page 4 for community group news and upcoming events. Between Salsa rhythms and heavy metal blasts, speakers took the stage for announcements and congratulations as the program wound to a finish.

Cortland youth take in street fair scene. Photos: D. Butterfield

Although too many people to mention helped organize and run this year's festival, credit should be given to Mike Moore and the Festival Committee and to the Bernal Youth Council for their efforts organizing and providing security.

When asked to sum up his feelings about the event Mike Moore reflected, "That the Bernal Heights Council could pull this off with three weeks planning is a miracle...and a lot of hard work. We're building a strong tradition that I hope will last a long time."

Undoubtedly that tradition will continue next year at the Fourth Annual Folks Festival. We'll see you there.

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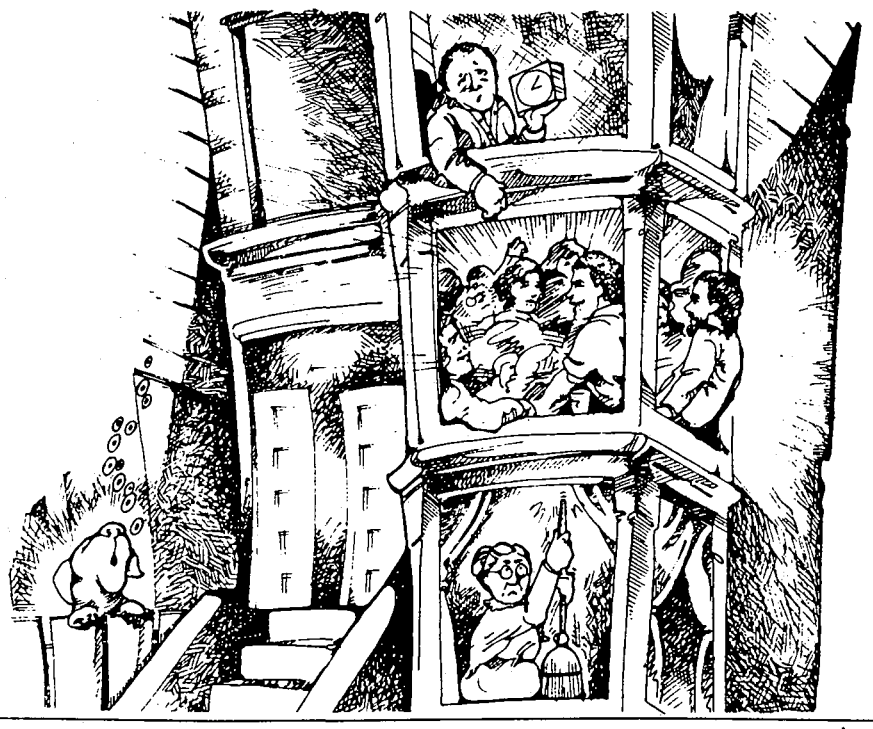

If you have trouble with your neighbor and don't know what to do, call COMMUNITY BOARDS. We can help with all kinds of problems: Noise. Vandalism. Theft. Consumer Complaints. And Many More!.

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BERNAL HEIGHTS ASSOCIATION

The Bernal Heights Association, a neighborhood association organized in 1966, is a place where people can get together to improve their community and to learn more about its people and its history.

The Association meets monthly and charges dues of only two dollars per year. This includes mail delivery of the Bernal Journal. Bernal residents who are not on the BHA mailing list can call Judy Forsberg evenings at 282-3620.

ST. KEVIN'S CHURCH

On November 7, St. Kevin's Women's Guild is holding their "Champagne Bingo Luncheon and Boutique." Tickets are $5.00 for 7 cards for 14 games, champagne and sandwiches. To begin at 1 pm at St. Kevin's Ellsworth Hall.

BERNAL SENIOR PROGRAM

A grand and glorious welcome was extended to Bernal Heights Seniors on September 8 as the Bernal Senior Program officially moved into its new home, the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center.

The transition went smoothly thanks to help from staff and from board and youth volunteers. According to 86-year-old Josephine Iudice, "We're all so happy to be here. This place is so beautiful."

BERNAL RECYCLING CENTER

The Recycling Center is open every Saturday at the Alemany Farmer's Market for anyone to recycle glass, newspaper, aluminum, cardboard and computer paper.

Currently, the Center is trying to increase revenues by acquiring a three-section bin so glass can be sorted by color. Sorted glass brings a better price per ton than non-sorted.

The Center has pledges of about $1000 towards a goal of $2500 to buy a bin. If you can loan or donate money, call the Center at 282-0364 or come to the office at 515 Cortland, second floor.

NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

The Neighborhood Center had a very successful opening September 18, with many S.F. and Bernal dignitaries on hand to congratulate the many hard workers who made it possible.

The Center continues to be open from 9 am to 10 pm with many regular programs. These include Senior Lunch Program, youth movies, Spanish and English classes, Salsa Aerobics, Girl Scout meetings and much more.

For more information and scheduling call the Center at 648-0330 or come by and see the building at 515 Cortland.

GYM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Gym Advisory Committee meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at the gym (on Moultrie Street behind the library) to discuss gym programs.

Currently, the committee is working on alternative locations for gym programs for the period the gym is to be closed. The gym is expected to be closed starting late November in order to carry out construction and repairs inside and outside the building. Interested people are encouraged to attend.

BERNAL MURAL PROJECT

The mural was dedicated to the people of Bernal Heights at a small reception held in the library during the Street Fair.

Work on the front of the building is complete and the rest of the mural is due to be finished in mid-November.

BERNAL HEIGHTS COUNCIL

Following the successful, third annual Bernal Festival, the BHC is working on structure and bylaws for the organization.

The council has plans for a poll of all interested community members and a subsequent "town meeting" to adopt bylaws and address issues raised by the poll.

For more information call Mike Moore at 648-0330.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Topics for the upcoming meeting of the library committeee include discussion of the committee's report to the S.F. Library Commission and the utilization of volunteer workers. The committee meets the second Wednesday of the month at the Library.

PARK-ANDOVER BLOCK CLUB

The block club had a successful picnic in September at St. Mary's Park. It continues to meet on the fourth Thursday of each month in order to work on and discuss community issues.

CURE

The Center for the Urban Environment (CURE) is a new group in Bernal Heights. It is starting classes to teach people practical ways to cut their food and utility bills.

CURE hopes to eventually create a Center, possibly by renovating the burned church on Cortland. For more information call Jon Katz or Liz Walker at 285-9685.

PRECITA CENTER

The Center, in its sixtieth year of operation has a large schedule of activities for all ages. Programs include two daily pre-school sessions, an after-school arts and crafts program, weight-room for teens, volleyball, basketball and Dancercize.

BHCF

The Community Foundation celebrated the opening of its new Neighborhood Center on September 18 and followed up on September 19 with the groundbreaking for the new Holladay Avenue homes.

In addition to these programs, the BHCF is continuing its program of low-cost housing rehabilitation loans. These low-interest loans are for correcting life threatening code violations.

For more information on these $20,000 deferred-payment loans, call Larry Moore at 647-4255.

BONVIEW BLOCK CLUB

The Bonview group has organized two Bernal community planning workshops conducted by a professional planner. The goal of these workshops is to establish a proposal to make to the Planning Commission and the Mayor.

For more information, call Joan Botza at 647-1963.

WRIGHT STREET BLOCK CLUB

This informal neighborhood organization recently had a successful "street picnic" attended by 40 people.

The block club also works together to address neighborhood concerns as they come up.

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